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The authors discuss at some length the various theories concerning the origin of dermoid tumors, and both reach the conclusion that the *fœtus in fœtu* theory of Meckel explains most satisfactorily the present case. Biologically considered, some of the facts presented are very difficult to understand, even on this theory; *e.g.*, the widely distributed condition of the eye tissue and the recurrence of the entire tumor.

Dr. Montgomery assumes that some fragments of the original growth must have remained behind after the first operation, despite the fact that such did not seem to be the case; and that these fragments contained representatives of all the tissues found in the tumor.

W. E. R.

A New Journal of Parasitology.—The attention of naturalists was attracted last year by the announcement that the publication of a new journal devoted to the study of parasites would be entered upon in 1898 by Prof. Raphael Blanchard, of Paris, whose contributions to helminthology have been among the most valuable of recent years. And the belief was freely expressed that the journal would be successful from the start, and would take a high place in the periodical literature of science. The appearance of two numbers of about 180 pages each afford complete justification for this belief, and call for more than a passing notice.

The *Archives de Parasitologie* is to be a quarterly devoted, as the preface says, "to the study of (all) those organisms which are capable of causing disease in man and in the animals." Its scope, in consequence, is decidedly extensive, and deals with parasitology in the broadest sense rather than with helminthology merely. The numbers already issued present articles on bacteria, protozoa, worms, and arthropods, as well as on methods and apparatus, while mycology is also proclaimed to be within its sphere. On reading the prologue of Professor Blanchard one is forced to pause, and wonders whether after all such a field is not too wide to keep a circle of special readers interested; whether mycology and bacteriology, which have their own journals also, appeal in their special development to workers in zoology; and, finally, whether bacteriology in all its wondrous blossoming will not usurp the place of other topics; and yet the perusal of the numbers shows a remarkable balance of interest and influence. Nevertheless, here is an evident danger.

The contents of the numbers at hand deserve more specific mention as indicating clearly the character of the periodical. First should

certainly be mentioned the beautiful tribute to that "Altmeister der Helminthologie," Rudolph Leuckart, whose photograph opens the second part; and the verdict that, famed as he was by his researches, the greatest power of the man was displayed as a teacher, will be shared by his students in all lands to whom to-day even the mention of his name comes as an inspiration. Among the score or more of scientific contributions it is almost invidious to attempt a choice, and some of the shortest can hardly be passed without mention. Of most general interest are perhaps Artault's splendid investigation on the flora and fauna of the pulmonary cavities and Brault's diseases of tropical lands. Legrain's well-illustrated article on parasitic diseases of Algeria will be read with peculiar interest by the physician, while those who have spent weary hours wrestling with the dry bones of systematic confusion will hail with delight such articles as Shipley's revision of the Linguatulidæ and Stiles and Hassall's inventory of the Fasciolidæ. Railliet and Marotel's article on the pancreatic fluke, which is the first accurate account of this species, a discussion of phagocytic organs in ascarids by Nasonov, whose figures are valuable aids to the comprehension of this newly emphasized feature of nematode anatomy, and Verdun and Iversenc's note on cysticerci of the cerebral ventricles will each interest the zoologist while appealing most strongly to workers in particular lines. The latter article calls for especial mention by virtue of its admirable summation of recorded cases of this type.

Perhaps the most characteristic feature of all the articles is the evident desire, successfully realized in most cases, to treat subjects from the standpoint of the specialist and yet to interpret them in the broadest way possible. This is manifest also in the editorial notes, as witnessed in the discussion of vicissitudes of helminthological nomenclature, where a gentle but just rebuke is administered with all the delicate and proverbial courtesy of a Frenchman.

Following the original articles, of which the bulk of each number is made up, are several pages of notes, and a list of reprints received closes the part. This list is evidently destined to become a valuable quarterly summary of contributions to parasitology convenient of reference, since the arrangement is topical and praiseworthy in that the references are full and precise.

In general appearance the *Archives* demonstrates the expressed resolve of the founder "to neglect nothing to make the typography and illustrations irreproachable." The paper used is of fine quality, the type clear and pleasing to the eye, and the text-figures, which are

not sparingly employed, are of the best. The single plate thus far published is well executed, but to an American eye the prominence accorded the name of the publishers savors rather too much of an advertisement. The journal is, however, on the whole one of which both the founder and the scientific world may well be proud, and for which all will join in wishing that abundant success for the future which the present numbers promise.

HENRY B. WARD.

The Weigert Methods. — Prof. C. J. Herrick has published in the *New York State Hospital's Bulletin* for October, 1897, a report upon a series of experiments with the Weigert staining methods. The author has in contemplation a study of the components of the cranial nerves in bony fishes, and as this rests largely on the myelination of the nerves, a careful study of the Weigert methods has preceded it. The results, satisfactory as well as unsatisfactory, are given for the different fixing reagents, mordants, etc., and form a body of valuable suggestions for those who propose applying these methods to the lower vertebrates.

BOTANY.

Britton and Brown's Flora.¹ — As a rule, large undertakings proceed slowly, and although Professor Britton's friends had known for some years that he was at work on a new manual of the general region covered by the familiar work of Dr. Gray, most of them were surprised when confronted with the first volume of the book in 1896. The prompt appearance of the second volume, and the publication of the third and concluding volume within less than two years from the appearance of the first, are no less surprising than was the early commencement of the work, and its industrious authors are to be congratulated on their energy and the perfection of their plans.

It was a happy thought, that of placing not only a description but a figure of each species in the hands of students at a price not too high for the rather cramped purse of the average botanist, and doing

¹ *An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States, Canada, and the British Possessions, from Newfoundland to the Parallel of the Southern Boundary of Virginia, and from the Atlantic Ocean Westward to the 102d Meridian.* By Nathaniel Lord Britton, Ph.D., and Hon. Addison Brown. In three volumes. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. Vol. iii, Apocynaceæ to Compositæ, 1898, 4°, pp. xiv + 588, many figures in the text.